

BRIEF NOTE

SOMATOCHLORA KENNEDYI
WALKER (ODONATA: CORDULI-
IDAE), A NEW OHIO DRAGONFLY¹

For about twenty years an unidentified dragonfly from northern Ohio has resided in one of my collection cases. I took it at Chapel Creek near Vermilion, Ohio, outside my usual study area, so it had low priority for further classification. R. A. Restifo and I recently examined the specimen and determined it to be *Somatochlora kennedyi* Walker, not before taken, to our knowledge, in Ohio. Walker (1925) reported *kennedyi* from: Manitoba, New Brunswick, Northwest Territories, Ontario, Quebec, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, and New York. Needham and Westfall (1955) listed New Hampshire, and Walker and Corbet (1975) added Wisconsin to its range.

Chapel Creek flows northward through Erie County near Vermilion, Ohio and empties into Lake Erie at Beulah Beach. It is a small stream (average width about five meters) with a gentle gradient and a rock, sand, and gravel bottom occasionally strewn with larger rocks. The valley through which Chapel Creek flows is thickly wooded former pasture land. Surrounding landscape is flat to gently rolling cultivated farm country.

Our dragonfly, a male, was taken July 1955. Several were seen flying rapidly above the stream at heights of less than one to several meters, all within a localized area near a bend; none were seen to alight. The creek is moderately

shaded here, in partial contrast to Walker and Corbet's (1975) description of *kennedyi*'s typical habitat (slow streams flowing through open bogs and marshes). An earlier work by Walker (1925) mentioned an affinity of this dragonfly for partly shaded situations. Other life forms observed at Chapel Creek included: snakes (*Elaphe*, *Natrix*, *Thamnophis*), turtles (*Chelydra*), frogs (*Rana*, crayfish (*Cambarus*), game fish (*Ictalurus*, *Lepistosteus*, *Micropterus*).

We visited the Chapel Creek area July 1975; it was little changed superficially. The only odonate observed was *Calopteryx maculata*. A fine blue heron (*Ardea*) was seen just above the Penn Central bridge, but little other animal life. Though no confirming data were collected, I would question that Chapel Creek is as clean and productive as once it was. More intensive collecting over a longer time period would be needed to confirm *Somatochlora kennedyi*'s exact present status there.

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